

Private Bill Procedure (Ireland) Bill.

MEMORANDUM.

The object of this Bill is to expedite and cheapen the procedure for private Bill Legislation in Ireland. It is framed on the model of the Scotch Act of 1899, for the same purpose, which was passed into law after most careful consideration in the House of Commons. The provisions of this Irish Bill are almost verbatim the same—*mutatis mutandis*.



Private Bill Procedure (Ireland) Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

Application for Provisional Order.

Clause.

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A
B I L L

TO

Amend the Law relating to Private Bill Procedure
in Ireland.A.D. 1906.
—

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

5 *Application for Provisional Order.*

1.—(1.) When any public authority or any persons (hereinafter referred to as the petitioners) desire to obtain parliamentary powers in regard to any matter affecting public or private interests in Ireland for which they are entitled to apply to Parliament by a petition for leave to bring in a Private Bill, they shall proceed by presenting a petition to the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in this Act referred to as the Chief Secretary, praying him to issue a Provisional Order in accordance with the terms of a draft Order submitted to him, or with such modifications as shall
15 be necessary.

Application
for Pro-
visional
Order.
Notices.

(2) A printed copy of the draft Order shall be deposited in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments and in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, and also at the office of the Treasury and of such other public departments as shall be prescribed at such
20 time as shall be prescribed.

(3) Before presenting a petition under the provisions of this Act, the petitioners shall make such deposits and give such notice by public advertisement, and, where land is proposed to be taken, by such service on owners, lessees, and occupiers, as shall be
25 prescribed as sufficient for procedure by way of Provisional Order under this Act.

[Bill 58.]

A.D. 1906.

Report by
Chairmen
that pro-
cedure
should be
by Private
Bill.

2.—(1) The Chairmen of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairmen of Ways and Means in the House of Commons (in this Act referred to as the Chairmen), shall, if the two Houses of Parliament think fit so to order, determine all matters of practice and procedure which will enable them to take into consideration 5 the draft Order, and to report thereon to the Chief Secretary. Provided that with a view to such report the Chief Secretary shall forthwith inform the Chairmen of any dissents from or objections to any of the provisions of the Order which have been stated in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time. 10

(2) If it appears from the report of the Chairmen that either of the Chairmen is of opinion that the provisions or some provisions of the draft Order do not relate wholly or mainly to Ireland, or are of such a character or magnitude, or raise any such question of policy or principle, that they ought to be dealt 15 with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order, the Chief Secretary shall, without further inquiry, refuse to issue the Provisional Order, so far as the same is objected to by the Chairmen or Chairman.

(3) A copy of every such report shall as soon as possible be 20 laid before both Houses of Parliament.

(4) If the Chief Secretary shall refuse to issue the Provisional Order or part thereof in pursuance of the provisions of this section the notices published and served and the deposits made for the proposed Provisional Order shall, subject to Standing Orders, be 25 held to have been published and served and made for a Private Bill applying for similar powers: Provided that the petitioners shall, by notice served in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time, inform all opponents of their intention to proceed by way of Private Bill, and, subject to Standing Orders, the petition 30 for the Provisional Order shall be deemed and taken to be the petition for leave to bring in a Private Bill, and the petitioners shall also give such additional notices (if any) as shall be required by Standing Orders.

Appointment of and Inquiry by Commissioners. 35

When
inquiry by
Commis-
sioners to be
directed.

3.—(1) If the Chairmen report that the Provisional Order may proceed, or if a report against a part only of the Order is made by the Chairmen, or either of them, upon due proof to the satisfaction of the examiner of compliance with the general orders herein-after mentioned, the Chief Secretary shall take the petition for a 40

Provisional Order into consideration, and subject to the report against any part of the Order (if any), shall, if there is opposition, or in any case in which he thinks inquiry necessary, direct an inquiry as to the propriety of assenting to the prayer of the petition, subject as aforesaid, to be held by Commissioners from time to time appointed in terms of this Act.

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(2) Provided that if the examiner under this Act shall find that the general orders have not been complied with, the petitioners may, in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time, apply to the Chairmen to dispense with any general order which has not been complied with, and the decision of the Chairmen shall be final; provided that if any conditions are attached to any dispensation with compliance with any general order, the Provisional Order shall not be proceeded with until the examiner shall have reported that such conditions have been satisfied.

4.—(1) On or before the *first day of January next after the commencement of this Act* there shall be formed a panel of persons (herein-after referred to as the extra-parliamentary panel) qualified by experience of affairs to act as Commissioners under this Act.

Formation of extra-parliamentary panel.

(2) The extra-parliamentary panel shall be formed in manner following; that is to say:—

(a) The Chairmen, acting jointly with the Chief Secretary, shall nominate twenty persons qualified as aforesaid, and the persons so nominated shall constitute the extra-parliamentary panel and shall remain thereon until the expiration of *five years*. Any casual vacancy on the panel caused by death or resignation shall be filled up by the Chairmen acting jointly with the Chief Secretary.

(b) At the expiration of every period of *five years*, the extra-parliamentary panel shall be re-formed in like manner and with the like incidents.

5.—(1) When it is determined that Commissioners shall be appointed for the purpose of inquiring as to the propriety of making and issuing a Provisional Order or Orders under this Act, the Chairmen shall appoint four Commissioners for that purpose, and shall at the same time nominate one of the Commissioners as Chairman.

Formation of parliamentary panels.
Appointment of Commissioners.

(2) Standing Orders may, if the two Houses of Parliament think fit so to order, provide for the formation of panels of members of the two Houses respectively to act as Commissioners

A.D. 1905. under this Act (herein-after referred to as the parliamentary panels).

(3) Subject to Standing Orders as aforesaid, two of the Commissioners shall be taken from the parliamentary panel of members of the House of Lords, and two shall be taken from the 5 parliamentary panel of members of the House of Commons.

(4) Subject to Standing Orders as aforesaid, if the Chairmen shall be unable to appoint Commissioners as in the immediately preceding subsection mentioned, three, or if need be all of the Commissioners, may be members of the same parliamentary panel. 10

(5) Subject to Standing Orders as aforesaid, if the Chairmen shall be unable to appoint Commissioners as in either of the two immediately preceding subsections mentioned, so many persons as are required to make up the number of Commissioners shall be taken by the Chief Secretary from the extra-parliamentary panel 15 herein-before mentioned.

(6) Any casual vacancy among the Commissioners, or in the office of Chairman of Commissioners caused by death or resignation, or inability to give attendance, such resignation or inability to attend being certified by a writing under the Commissioner's hand, 20 may be filled up by the Chief Secretary by appointing a member of any of the panels.

(7) Notwithstanding a dissolution of Parliament, any member of either House of Parliament may continue to act as commissioner in any inquiry for the purpose of which he has been appointed to 25 act.

(8) The persons appointed as Commissioners shall have no personal or local interest in the matter of the proposed Order or Orders, and shall as a condition of such appointment make a declaration to that effect, provided that Irish Members of either 30 House of Parliament shall neither be disqualified from acting nor preferred as Commissioners to deal with proposed Orders in which they have no personal or local interest.

Sittings of
Commis-
sioners.

6.—(1) Commissioners shall hold their inquiry at such place in Ireland as they may determine, with due regard to the subject- 35 matter of the proposed Order and to the locality to which its provisions relate. The sittings shall be held in public.

(2) Commissioners shall hear and determine any question of locus standi, but they shall not sustain the locus standi of any person who has not in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed 40

time objected to the proposed Order, unless on special grounds established to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, and subject to such conditions as to payment of costs or otherwise as the Commissioners may determine.

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5 (3) Subject to general Orders any person shall be allowed to appear before the Commissioners in opposition to the Order by himself, his counsel, agent, and witnesses, and counsel, agents, and witnesses may be heard in support of the Order.

10 (4) Subject to general orders, whenever a recommendation shall have been made by the Chairman or by any public department, it shall be referred to the Commissioners who shall notice such recommendation in their report, and shall state their reasons for dissenting, should such recommendation not be agreed to.

15 (5) Commissioners shall, as far as possible, sit from day to day until they finish the inquiry and submit their report to the Chief Secretary, with the evidence taken and the recommendations made by them, and they may recommend that the Order should be issued as prayed for, or should be issued with modifications, or should be refused, and if they recommend that the Order should
20 be issued with modifications they shall submit a copy of the Order showing the modifications they recommend.

Issue and Confirmation of Provisional Order.

7. If there is no opposition to the Order, or if any opposition thereto has been withdrawn before an inquiry has been held as
25 herein-before provided, the Chief Secretary may forthwith make the Order as prayed or with such modifications as shall appear to be necessary, having regard to the recommendations of the Chairman and of the Treasury and such other public departments as shall be prescribed; and thereupon the following provisions shall have
30 effect; (that is to say):—

Provision for
unopposed
Orders.

(1) Before making and issuing an Order, if any modification has been made on the draft Order originally deposited, the Chief Secretary shall cause a printed copy thereof to be deposited in the office of the Clerk of the Parli-
35 ments and in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, and also at the office of the Treasury, and of such other public departments as shall be prescribed, and shall not for such time as may be prescribed issue a Provisional Order: Provided that before making and
40 issuing such Order the Chief Secretary shall have regard

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to the recommendations of the Chairmen and of the Treasury, and such other public departments as shall be prescribed.

- (2) No Order so made shall be of any validity unless it has been confirmed by Parliament, and the Chief Secretary shall, as soon as conveniently may be, submit such Order to Parliament in a Bill (herein-after referred to as a Confirmation Bill), and such Bill, after introduction, shall be deemed to have passed through all its stages up to and including Committee, and shall be ordered to be considered in either House as if reported from a Committee.

When such Bill has been read a third time and passed in the first House of Parliament the like proceedings shall, subject to Standing Orders, be taken in the Second House of Parliament.

Any Act passed to confirm such Order shall be deemed to be a public Act of Parliament.

*Provision
for Orders
opposed,
or where
inquiry held.*

8.—(1) If—

- (a) there is opposition to the Order, and the opposition has not been withdrawn; or
(b) the opposition has been withdrawn after inquiry held; or

(c) although there is no opposition, inquiry has been held, the Chief Secretary shall refuse to issue a Provisional Order if the Commissioners report that the Order should not be made, or if they do not so report he may issue an order as prayed, or with such modifications as, having regard to the recommendations of the Commissioners, and of the Chairmen, and of the Treasury, and such other public departments as shall be prescribed, shall appear to be necessary; but before making and issuing an order, if any modification has been made on the draft Order originally deposited, the Chief Secretary shall cause a printed copy thereof to be deposited in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, and in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, and also at the office of the Treasury, and of such other public departments as shall be prescribed, and shall not for such time as may be prescribed, issue a Provisional Order: Provided that before making and issuing such Order the Chief Secretary shall have regard to the recommendations of the Chairmen and of the Treasury, and such other public departments as shall be prescribed.

(2) It shall be the duty of the petitioners to serve a copy of any Order so issued in the manner and upon the persons prescribed.

(3) No Order so made shall be of any validity unless it has been confirmed by Parliament, and the Chief Secretary shall, as soon as conveniently may be, submit such Order to Parliament in a Bill (herein-after referred to as a Confirmation Bill), and any Act passed to confirm such Order shall be deemed to be a Public Act of Parliament.

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9.—(1) If before the expiration of *seven days* after the introduction of a Confirmation Bill under the immediately preceding section in the House in which it originates a petition be presented against any Order comprised in the Bill, it shall be lawful for any member to give notice that he intends to move that the Bill shall be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament; and in that case such motion may be moved immediately after the Bill is read a second time, and, if carried, then the Bill shall stand referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament, and the opponent shall, subject to the practice of Parliament, be allowed to appear and oppose by himself, his counsel, agent, and witnesses; and counsel, agents, and witnesses may be heard in support of the Order. The Joint Committee shall hear and determine any question of *locus standi*.

Procedure on Confirmation Bills.

(2) The report of the Joint Committee shall, subject to Standing Orders, be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

(3) The Joint Committee may, by a majority, award costs, and such costs may be taxed and recovered and shall be secured in the manner provided in the Parliamentary Costs Act, 1865, subject to any necessary modifications.

28 & 29 Vict. c. 27.

(4) If no such motion as in sub-section (1) of this section mentioned is carried, the Bill shall be deemed to have passed the stage of Committee, and shall be ordered to be considered as if reported by a Committee.

When such Bill has been read a third time and passed in the first House of Parliament the like proceedings shall, subject to Standing Orders, be taken in the second House of Parliament.

Supplemental.

10. For the purposes of this Act Commissioners shall have the following powers; (that is to say) :—

Examination of witnesses, production of documents, &c.

(1) They may summon and examine on oath such witnesses as they think fit to call or allow to appear before them;

[58.]

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A.D. 1868.

- (2) They may require the production of all books, papers, plans, and documents relating to the matters dealt with in the draft Provisional Order referred to them;
- (3) They may, when sitting in open court, report to the judges on the rota for the trial of election petitions in Ireland for the time being, any person who has been guilty of contempt of court, and the judges on such rota may punish such person as if the contempt had been committed on the hearing of an election petition under the Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868;
- (4) Generally the orders of Commissioners may be enforced as if they had been pronounced by the judges on such rota for the time being;
- (5) The quorum of the Commissioners shall be three; but any order, summons, or warrant may be signed by one Commissioner only; and
- (6) A chairman of Commissioners shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote.

Powers of
county
councils,
town
councils, &c.
under Act.

11.—(1) County councils shall have the same powers and be subject to the same restrictions in regard to proceedings under, or in pursuance of this Act, as they now have or are subject to under the provisions of section seventeen of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, in regard to Private Bills or Confirmation Bills.

(2) County boroughs and urban district councils shall have the same powers and be subject to the same restrictions in regard to proceedings under or in pursuance of this Act as they now have or are subject to in regard to Private Bills or Confirmation Bills.

(3) In addition, any county council, county borough, urban district council, or town commissioners connected with the locality to which any draft Provisional Order referred to Commissioners under this Act relates, may make a report to the Commissioners respecting the provisions of the draft Order, and the Commissioners shall consider the recommendations contained in the report.

Officers, &c.
of Com-
missioners.

12. Commissioners from time to time appointed shall have such office accommodation as the Treasury may determine, and the Chief Secretary may from time to time, with the consent of the Treasury as to number, appoint or employ such officers, clerks, and messengers as shall be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

There shall be paid to each of such officers, clerks, and messengers such remuneration as the Treasury may from time to time determine. A.D. 1905. —

13. There may also be assigned for the purposes of this Act Examiners.
 5 such one or more of the examiners appointed under Standing Orders as the Chairman may direct. An examiner shall perform under this Act duties analogous to those he now performs under Standing Orders, and shall receive such remuneration for his services as the Treasury shall determine.
- 10 14. *The travelling and subsistence allowances of the Commissioners and examiners, together with all other expenses incidental to carrying out this Act, shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.* Payment of expenses, &c.
- 15 15.—(1) The Chairman, acting jointly with the Chief Secretary, shall at any time after the passing of this Act, and from time to time, make, and may vary and alter, such general orders as may be requisite for the regulation of proceedings under and in pursuance of this Act, including the fixing, with the consent of the Treasury, a scale of fees to be paid by petitioners and opponents Provisions for general orders.
 20 of Provisional Orders. The fees so payable shall be collected and disposed of in such manner as the Treasury may direct. Fees.
- (2) Such general orders shall, with a view to the regulation of Provisional Orders, provide for the incorporation (subject to such exceptions and variations as may be mentioned in the order)
 25 with each Provisional Order of such general Acts as would, if the Provisional Order were a Private Bill, be incorporated therewith according to the ordinary practice of Parliament.
- (3) Every general order purporting to be made in pursuance of this section shall, immediately after the making thereof, be laid
 30 before both Houses of Parliament if Parliament be then sitting, or, if Parliament be not then sitting, within seven days after the next meeting of Parliament; and if either House of Parliament, by a resolution passed within one month after such general order has been so laid before the said House, resolve that the whole or any
 35 specified part thereof ought not to continue in force, the same or the specified part thereof shall after the date of such resolution cease to be of any force, without prejudice nevertheless to the making of any other general order, or to anything done before the date of such resolution; but, subject as aforesaid, every general
 40 order purporting to be made in pursuance of this Act shall be

A.D. 1905. deemed to have been duly made and within the powers of the Act, and shall have effect as if it had been enacted in this Act.

Scraps.

16.—(1) Nothing contained in this Act shall affect the power of any authority in Ireland now empowered to make Provisional Orders or other orders under the provisions of any Act in force at the passing of this Act or the procedure therein specified, save only that, in the case of Provisional Orders which at present require confirmation by Parliament, the provisions of section nine of this Act shall, with the necessary modifications, apply as if they were contained in any Act in force as aforesaid. 10

(2) Nothing contained in this Act shall affect the right of any person to apply for, or the powers of the Board of Trade or other department to make, Provisional or other orders under the provisions of any Act in force at the passing of this Act or the procedure therein specified, or confer upon the Chief Secretary power to make Provisional Orders authorising and regulating the supply of electricity for lighting or other purposes. 15

(3) This Act shall not apply to Estate Bills or Divorce Bills within the meaning of Standing Orders.

Buildings and objects of historical interest.

17. If any objection to any draft order is made to the Chief Secretary on the ground that the undertaking proposed to be authorised by the order will destroy or injure any building or other object of historical interest, or will injuriously affect any natural scenery, the Chief Secretary shall consider such objection, and may, if he thinks fit, refer such objection to the Commissioners, who shall give to those by whom it is made a proper opportunity of being heard in support of it. 20 25

Definitions.

18. In this Act, unless the subject or context otherwise requires,—

The expression "Standing Orders" means the Standing Orders of the House of Lords and the House of Commons respectively: 30

The expression "general orders" means the general orders made in pursuance of this Act:

The expression "prescribed" means prescribed by the general orders made in pursuance of this Act: 35

The expression "agent" includes all solicitors, within the meaning of the Solicitors (Ireland) Act, 1898, and any person entitled to practise as agent according to the practice and rules of either House of Parliament in cases of Private Bills and matters relating thereto. 40

19. This Act shall commence to have effect *from and after* A.D. 1906.
the end of the session of Parliament next ensuing the passing hereof,
and may be cited as the Private Bill Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1905, Commence-
ment, short
title, and
extent.
and shall apply to Ireland only.

Private Bill Procedure (Ireland).

A

B I L L

To amend the Law relating to Private
Bill Procedure in Ireland.

Presented by Mr. O'Doherty,

supported by

*Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Field, Mr. Patrick
Kennedy, and Dr. Thompson.*

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[Bill 58.]